Your main theme was about Text-Book Committees. There again, nobody will deny the importance of the work of the Text Book Committee, or the practical difficulties in always selecting the best books. You said that Text Book Committees should not be constituted merely of educational authorities. A little while ago, another member said that Text Book Committees should not be constituted of merely literary men. I think there is some truth in both these statements. It is necessary to have educational authorities on the Text Book Committees because it is they alone who are, as it were, in everyday contact with the intelligence of the children, who can really fix the standard of the text book for each class. An eminent writer will perhaps be carried away more by his admiration of elegant language and is likely to ignore the standard of capacity of little children who may have to study those text books. It seems to me that in this too, as in all other things, a golden mean is the best. And we have a committee consisting of educational authorities and literary men.

With regard to the examinations, you said that the minima of marks for passes in the vernaculars should be raised. I have expert opinion that there is no necessity for raising it. By analogy, of course, in an English country, the minimum for passing the English language should be raised. As a matter of fact, we do not find it. The expert opinion is that it is not necessary to raise the minima of examination marks in the English language.

You then mentioned the dictionary. I did not know that there was a dictionary in the making by the Head Translator. I have always thought that that was more a matter for literary men than for the Government to take up. And now I am glad to find there is a Dr. Johnson among us. The only thing for the Government to do is to render such help as it is possible and proper for them to give. That I am sure Government will give.

There are a few other valuable suggestions made by you. These will also be carefully considered.

54. Communications in the Peermade taluk.

MR. N. K. P. P. ROWTHER (*Peermade taluk*) said that Peermade was the centre of the planting district, besides being a sanatorium and summer resort. But want of communications and facilities for easy access was a serious handicap to the planting industry such as cardamom, rubber and tea, the demand for which was growing more and more year by year. The member therefore requested that the following works might be undertaken and finished at an early date:—

(1) Completion of the Kumili-Devicolam road and making it fit for cart traffic. The work might be started at both ends of the road so that it might be finished quickly. Two branch roads from the trunk road should also be opened, one leading to Vandanmettu and the other to Cumbammettu. The distance between the two places would only be about 6 miles.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(2) The cardamom ryots of Peermade were living in the Cumbam valley and they had begun the construction of a road from Cumbammettu to the foot of the hills, a distance of 4 miles. That road if completed would facilitate the transport of timber to the British frontier. The Government should therefore make a liberal grant for its construction.

(3) Construction of a cart road from Kumili to Ramakkal along the frontier connecting all the *chowkeys*. Such a road would be of great help to the Government officers in detecting and preventing smuggling of dutiable articles.

(4) Extension of the Fairfield road to meet the Kumili-Devicolam road *via* Aiyappan Koil would be a short cut from Devicolam to Kottayam when the Devicolam-Kumili road was completed.

(5) Construction of a road from Vandanmettu to Kalthotti cardamom area and meeting the Kottayam-Kumili would be a great boon to the cardamom ryots. The cardamom estates in the Vandanmettu *pakuthi* were now all scattered in the Mali, Kanavakuzhi and Kalthotti *tavalams*. If all those *tavalams* were connected by the proposed road, the cardamom ryots would be highly benefited and easy transport facilitated.

(6) Construction of a road from Vandanmettu to Karimannur. If that road and the road to Cumbammettu now under construction by the planters were finished, there will be through communication between Todupuzha and Cumbam on the British frontier.

(7) Construction of bridges across the Mali and Kanavakuzi rivers in the Vandanmettu *pakuthi*. During the rainy season, the rivers were flooded and crossing was well-nigh impossible. The owners of cardamom estates on the other side of the rivers and the coolies working in them were consequently put to much hardship. The bridges were therefore absolutely necessary.

The above questions would naturally be referred to the Road Board. But the Board would meet only twice every year and all questions cannot be taken up and decided. The Board should therefore be instructed to meet oftener.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Rowther, I shall be very glad to convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent the expressions of loyalty and rejoicing at Her Highness having secured the coveted honor of C. I. conferred on Her by His Majesty the King Emperor.

Your representation mainly deals with means of communications, some roads and some bridges. These requisitions for roads and other means of communication have hereafter to be dealt with by the Road Boards that have been created now and your requests will all be referred to the Road Boards. As the representative of a taluk, you will have an opportunity of pressing these needs before the District Board.

In regard to one or two of your specific requests, I have a word to say. In regard to the second point of your representation, that is,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the road which is under construction by the owners of cardamom estates from the foot of the hill to Cumbamettu, I may tell you that Government are not quite satisfied that it is a road which is going to be useful; and unless they are satisfied on that point, you cannot expect Government to make any contribution towards the expenses of that road.

With regard to the road that you suggest for connecting up all the *chowkeys* together, the Government experts are of opinion that it is going to be a costly concern; and, at present there is no necessity for such a costly road.

Your sixth point is that the High Range Division is, as it were, isolated, and that by the opening of a road like that it will be connected with the plains. But even as it is, you have got a big road project there, that is, the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road which is going to connect Devicolam, Pallivasal, Munnar and other places with the plains. Until we have seen by experience how far that road serves the needs of the locality, we cannot be sure that there is any necessity for further road construction.

Your other suggestions will be referred to the Road Board.

55. Means of communication in the Parur taluk.

MR. V. K. KUNJUKRISHNAN VAIDYAN (*Nominated*) thanked the Government for nominating him to the Assembly and also expressed the gratification of the inhabitants of the Parur taluk for taking in hand the construction of the Parur bridge. But there were other public works which were also absolutely necessary and the following were the chief among them:—

(1) Metalling the road starting from the main road on the northern side of the Parur Cutcherry and leading to Chennamangalam and the provision of two culverts.

(2) Construction of a bridge at the northern extremity of the above road and provision of a ferry boat there, pending construction of the bridge.

(3) Metalling the road starting from the Parur *angadi* and leading to Kuriyapalli and making it fit for cart traffic. That work had already been sanctioned and should be taken in hand soon. The bridge at Tiruppuram was in a dilapidated condition. It would be desirable to dismantle it and construct a new one along with the work on the road.

(4) Improvement of the road leading to Chakkarakadavu and making it fit for cart traffic.

(5) Deepening the Pashni *todu* on the eastern side of the Parur Cutcherry.

(6) Construction of a bridge at the Moottakunnam school landing.

(7) Completion of the bridge at Pallikadavu.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly